

Serial No.: 10/519,242
Filed: December 22, 2004

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Jun (JP 2001-133984), evidenced by Toshisuke et al (JP11-124531).

The applicants have amended claims 1 and 12. Claim 3 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 refers to an anti-reflective coating composition which comprises a fluorine-containing polymer, an acid, an amine and an aqueous solvent capable of dissolving these components, further where the coating composition has a pH ranging from about 1.0 to about 6.0, and further where the fluorine-containing polymer is a polymer comprising a polymer unit represented by the following general formula (I),



wherein R_i represents a straight or branched perfluoroalkyl group which may contain an etheric oxygen atom, further wherein the acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, hydrofluoric acid, hydrobromic acid, alkylsulfonic acid, alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, alkylcarboxylic acid, alkylbenzenecarboxylic acid, and those obtained by replacing all or part of the hydrogen atoms of the aforesaid alkyl group by fluorine atoms, and further where alkyl of the acid is 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

Support for the amended claim 1 is present on page 8, line 1, and support for the amended claim 12 is in the Examples.

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The prior art cited by the Examiner refers to an acid in the composition which is polymeric, such as polyacrylic acid or polymethacrylic acid. The presently amended claim 1 refers to an acid compound where any alkyl present has 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and such compounds are not disclosed in the prior art.

In view of the above remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, he is requested to contact the agent for Applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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